

# 2009 Essay Competition

## I. Contest Purpose

The purpose of the essay contest is to provide students with an opportunity to express their views on a current topic in education. The topic for the 2009 essay contest is as follows:

According to the Anti-Bullying organization, [www.bullying.org](http://www.bullying.org).

Bullying is a conscious, willful, deliberate, hostile and repeated behavior by one or more people which is intended to harm others. Bullying takes many forms, and can include many different behaviors, such as physical violence and attacks; verbal taunts, name-calling and put-downs; threats and intimidation; extortion or stealing of money and possessions; and exclusion from the peer group.

Bullying is a serious issue in all schools. Recent reports show that bullying isn't limited to the playground, the cafeteria, or the school hallways. In what ways does the Internet contribute to the culture of bullying? What does the research show about this trend?

## II. Eligibility for Entry

- A. Entries are limited to one FEA student member per chapter. Each chapter may have a local run-off competition to select the winning essay contestant to represent them. However, a local competition is not required.
- B. Entries are divided into two categories:
  - 1. High school
  - 2. Middle school
- C. Students winning the national competition must be registered for the conference by Jan. 9, 2009. Winners who are not registered by that date will be disqualified and new winners will be chosen.
- D. Entry form and essay must be submitted online by Dec. 19, 2008. [Click here](#) to enter the middle school competition or [here](#) to enter the high school competition.
- E. Entrants grant the conference committee the right to use and publish the submission in print, online, or in any other media in connection with this competition without compensation.

## III. Procedures

- A. Print confirmation page for your records after completing the online entry form.

## IV. Guidelines

- A. Essays must range from 300 to 500 words. Every word of the essay is counted. This does not include the title or works cited.

- B. Essays must be written in English.
- C. Essays must be single spaced with a double space between paragraphs. They must be submitted as part of the online entry form.
- D. Contestants must include references and cite all their sources of information by using MLA format for the Works Cited page. Essays without a Works Cited page will be disqualified before the judging process takes place. Examples follow for correct style when listing a book, an article, or an Internet source.
- Note: Do not use underlining or italics, as neither of these formats will carry over into the online submission form.

**Book**

Frye, Northrop. *Anatomy of Criticism: Four Essays*. Princeton: Princeton UP, 1957.

**Newspaper article**

Crossette, Barbara. "India Lodges First Charges in Arms Scandal." *New York Times* 23 Jan. 1990, natl. ed.: A4.

**Article in online newspaper**

Goldfarb, Zachary A. "Child Health Dilemma." *Washington Times* 31 Aug. 2003. 4 Sept. 2003  
<<http://www.washtimes.com/world/20030831-121939-8655r.htm>>.

**V. Judging and Scoring**

- A. The judges' decisions are final.
- B. Judges' comments will be provided to the student after the conclusion of the conference.
- C. The following factors will be considered when the entry is judged:
- Adherence to the Guidelines sections of this document;
  - Whether the essay is on the stated topic (essays not on the stated topic will not be judged);
  - Whether the essay has a clear thesis, is on topic, has supporting details, and includes a conclusion that restates the thesis and gives the reader something to remember about the text.
  - Whether the ideas expressed are meaningful and important.
  - Whether the content is clear and convincing;
  - Whether the essay includes elements of creativity;
  - Whether correct spelling, grammar, punctuation, and sentence structure are used;
  - Whether the essay includes references that are cited according to the Guidelines section of this document.

## Judges' Rating Sheet— Essay Competition

Contestant's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Contestant's School \_\_\_\_\_

Is the essay on the stated topic? Circle yes or no

If yes, continue the scoring process. If no, do not continue the scoring process.

*(Points given may range between zero and maximum number indicated.)*

### A. GUIDELINES

The essay must be between 300 – 500 words. This essay has \_\_\_\_\_ words.

Score 5 if within limits; score 0 if not within limits. .... 5 \_\_\_\_\_

The essay must be single spaced with a double space between paragraphs.

Score 5 if in correct format; score 0 if format is incorrect. .... 5 \_\_\_\_\_

The essay must cite sources of information. The correct citation format is followed. Examples are found in the Guidelines. (Note: Students did not have to use correct underlining or italics, as neither format will carry over into the online submission form.) .... 10 \_\_\_\_\_

### B. TOPIC ORGANIZATION

The essay has a clear thesis. .... 10 \_\_\_\_\_

The body of the essay is on topic and has supporting details. .... 10 \_\_\_\_\_

The essay has a clear conclusion that restates the thesis and gives the reader something to remember about the text. .... 10 \_\_\_\_\_

### C. ESSAY CONTENT

The ideas expressed are meaningful and important. .... 10 \_\_\_\_\_

The content is clear and convincing. .... 10 \_\_\_\_\_

There are elements of creativity. .... 10 \_\_\_\_\_

### D. MECHANICS/GRAMMAR

Sentence structure is accurate. .... 5 \_\_\_\_\_

Punctuation is used correctly. .... 5 \_\_\_\_\_

Spelling is error free. .... 5 \_\_\_\_\_

Grammar is used correctly. .... 5 \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL SCORE 100** \_\_\_\_\_

Judge's Comments:

Judge's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_